Presuppositions in Retno Marsudi's Speech at the UN General Assembly in New York

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Abstrak

Assumption toward something that has happened early before an utterance is called presupposition. Studying presupposition helps people clarify a conversation. According to Yule's theory, presupposition is categorized into six types, which are existential, factive, non-factive, lexical, structural, and counter-factual presuppositions. In this research, the writer attempts to identify and analyze presuppositions found Retno Marsudi's Speech at the UN General Assembly in New York, on Thursday, 25th May 2021. Descriptive qualitative method is applied since the data is in the form of sentences. The result shows that there are four types of presupposition. Based on the analysis, there are 33 presuppositions, namely 18 existential presuppositions, 1 factive presupposition, 13 lexical presuppositions, and 1 structural presupposition.

Keywords: presuppositions, Retno Marsudi, Yule's Theory

1. INTRODUCTION

On May 20, 2021, Indonesia took part in the UN General Assembly at the UN Headquarters, New York, USA. Foreign minister of Indonesia, Retno Marsudi, represented Indonesia to support Palestine which was continuously attacked by Israel. She delivered a speech to persuade the whole world to end the military aggression done by Israel to Palestine and save innocent people (Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, 2021)

The minister's speech attracts the writer's attention thus the writer analyzes types of presuppositions found in the speech. Presupposition is defined as an assumption of what has happened before words are uttered (Yule, 1996). However, people, both speaker and listener, mostly ignore presupposition as it is considered unimportant (Huang, 2007). Meanwhile, we

are able to get a clear understanding of a conversation if we study presupposition thoroughly (Tambunan,A.R.S., et al, 2019).

In doing this research, three linguistics journals are reviewed as references. The first journal is entitled *An analysis of Presupposition Used in The Wrestler*. The result shows that all types of presupposition exist, which consist of 9 existential presuppositions (15%), 15 structural presuppositiosn (26%), 11 factive presuppositions (19%), 13 counter factual presuppositions (22%), 3 non-factive presuppositions (5%), and 7 lexical presuppositions (Khalili, 2017).

The second linguistics journal is entitled *Presupposition in "Barbie and the Magic of Pegasus" Movie*. The data reveals five types of presupposition. There are 3 factive presuppositions, 2 existential presuppositions, 2 structural presuppositions, 1 counterfactual presupposition and 1 lexical presupposition (Tambunan,A.R.S., et al, 2019).

Lastly, the writer reviews a linguistics journal entitled *An Analysis of Presupposition Used in Fifty Shades of Grey by E.L James*. Four types of presupposition exist in this journal. There are 13 factive presuppositions, 9 lexical presuppositions, 4 existential presuppositions, and 3 counter factual presuppositions (Chandra, 2016).

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Presupposition

Someone's assumption to something that has occurred before words are uttered is called presupposition. It can also be inferred as an implicit interpretation of a listener in a conversation. Presupposition is categorized into six types as follows (Yule, 1996):

1. Existential presupposition

This presupposition shows that things mentioned in a conversation exists. It is presupposed in the form of possessive nouns or in any definite noun phrases.

e.g.: My coffee >> I have coffee.

The President of Indonesia >> The president exists, Indonesia exists.

2. Factive presupposition

Some facts can be revealed by a speaker if some words exist in a conversation, such as realize, regret, glad, odd, aware, etc.

e.g.: Everybody knows that Bob owns a car. >> Bob owns a car.

He realized that he could not find his car key. >> He lost his car key.

3. Non-factive presupposition

In contrast to factive presupposition, this presupposition contains imaginary meaning, shown by some verbs, like dream, imagine and pretend.

e.g.: He dreamed that he got the job. >> He did not get the job.

I pretend to enjoy the event >> I do not enjoy the event.

4. The lexical presupposition

By referring to a certain word, a speaker presupposes something.

e.g.: The rain has **stopped** >> It rained before.

John has resigned as a cop >> John used to be a cop.

I am making the coffee >> The coffee is not ready yet.

5. The structural presupposition

An implicit message is interpreted by a speaker from interrogative sentences.

e.g.: When did she pass away? >> She passed away.

How did you pass the test? >> You passed the test.

How did Ray come here? >> Ray came here.

6. The counter-factual presupposition

This presupposition is based on a conditional sentence which counters the fact of utterances.

e.g.: If I were a bird, I would fly away from here. >> I am not a bird, so I will not fly away from here.

If you had arrived earlier, you would've seen the accident. >> You did not arrive earlier, you did not see the accident.

3. METHODOLOGY

Descriptive qualitative method is applied in this research because the data collected is in the form of sentences (Kabir, 2016). At the beginning, the writer watched a speech video entitled *INDONESIA DUKUNG PALESTINA DI SIDANG PBB || Indonesian statement at the UN Palestine issue trial*, which is available on *PNS INDONESIA* Youtube channel, streamed on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bkNO_Ja3es. It is about Retno Marsudi's speech at the UN General Assembly, that asks all nations to support Palestine. The writer then identify types of presupposition found in the speech by analyzing each sentence.

4. DATA ANALYSIS

4.1. Existential Presupposition

Data	Analysis
I'm here today to fight for justice for the Palestinian people.	1. Palestinian people exist.
I am here today to call for an end to the violence and for immediate cease-fire to save the lives of innocent people	2. Violence exists. 3. Innocent people exist. 4. Women and children

including women and children.	exist.	The International Community owes the Palestinian people, a long overdue independent state of Palestine living side-by-side in equal with all of us.	11. The International Community exists.
I'm sure that each one of us are touched when confronted with images of a two-month-old baby injured and pulled away from the rubble at her family later.	5. Images of a two-month-old baby injured exist.	This continued operation and aggression by Israel does not only warrant condemnation, but it is also a grave violation of international law that demands our actions.	12. A continued operation and aggression by Israel exist. 13. A grave violation of international law exists.
The only question we should ask ourselves how much longer shall be, like these atrocities continued?	6. Atrocities exist.	Thus, I called the UN General Assembly to take action.	14. The UN General Assembly exists.
All of us know that this conflict is asymmetric by nature between Israel, the oppressor the occupying power and the Palestinian, the occupied who are continuously being oppressed.	7. A conflict exists. 8. Israel exists. 9. The Palestinian exists.	First, stop the violence and military action to prevent further casualties.	15. Violence and military action exist. 16. Casualties exist.
Occupation is the core issue.	10. Occupation exists.	As we also support, continue, by relentless effort by	17. The secretary general

the secretary general.	exists.
…and to protect the status of Al-Haram Al-Sharif, holy place for three religions.	18. Al-Haram Al-Sharif exists.

4.2. Factive Presupposition

Data	Analysis
All of us know that this conflict is asymmetric by nature between Israel, the oppressor the occupying power and the Palestinian, the occupied who are continuously being oppressed. Occupation is the core issue.	1. There is a conflict between Israel and Palestine which has been known.

4.3. Non-Factive Presupposition

None

4.4. Lexical Presupposition

Data	Analysis
I'm here today to fight for justice for the Palestinian	1. The word *fight* presupposes that there is
people.	no justice for the Palestinian people yet.
I am here today to call for an end to the violence and for immediate cease-fire to save the lives of innocent people including women and children.	2. The word *end* presupposes that the violence is still going on. 3. The word *immediate* presupposes that cease-fire has not been done yet.
I'm sure that each one of us are touched when confronted with images of a two-month-old baby injured and pulled away from the rubble.	4. The word *rubble* presupposes that there was a massive destruction that the baby was stuck in there.
The only question we should ask ourselves how much longer shall be, like these atrocities continued?	5. The word *continued* presupposes that the atrocities have not stopped yet.

The International Community owes the Palestinian people, a long overdue independent state of Palestine living side-by-side in equal with all of us.	6. The word *overdue* presupposes that Palestine has not gained their full independence yet, which they have been fighting for a long time.
This continued operation and aggression by Israel does not only warrant condemnation, but it is also a grave violation of international law that demands our actions.	7. The word *continued* presupposes that Israel has not stopped their operation and aggression.
First, stop the violence and military action to prevent further casualties.	8. The word *further* presupposes that there have been already casualties.

In this regard the general assembly should call for the establishment of an international presence in output to monitor and to ensure the safety of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and to protect the status of Al-Haram Al-Sharif, holy place for three religions.	9. The word *ensure* presupposes that the Palestinian people are still threatened. 10. The word *protect* presupposes that Al-Sharif is in danger too.
It must urge Israel to open and allow access for the delivery of humanitarian aid including to Gaza, which has been under siege for more than 13 years.	11. The word *urge* presupposes that Israel blocks the access of humanitarian aid.
The general assembly has moral and political	12. The word *ensure* presupposes that there is no

Data	Analysis
responsibility to ensure that peace negotiation take place.	peace negotiation yet.
We must put a stop to the systematic effort by the occupying power that may leave nothing left to be negotiated.	13. The word *systematic* presupposes that Israel has a detailed and well-organized plan.

4.5. Structural Presupposition

Data	Analysis
The only question we should ask ourselves how much longer shall be, like these atrocities continued?	1. The atrocities have been happening.

4.6. Counter-Factual Presupposition
None

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis, four types of presupposition exist in Retono Marsudi's speech. They consist of existential, factive, lexical, and structural presuppositions. On the other hand, non-

factive and counter-factual presuppositions do not exist in the speech.

There are 33 presuppositions in total, namely 18 existential presuppositions, 1 factive presupposition, 13 lexical presuppositions, and 1 structural presupposition.

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